

**Quinnipiac**  
UNIVERSITY

FRANK H. NETTER MD

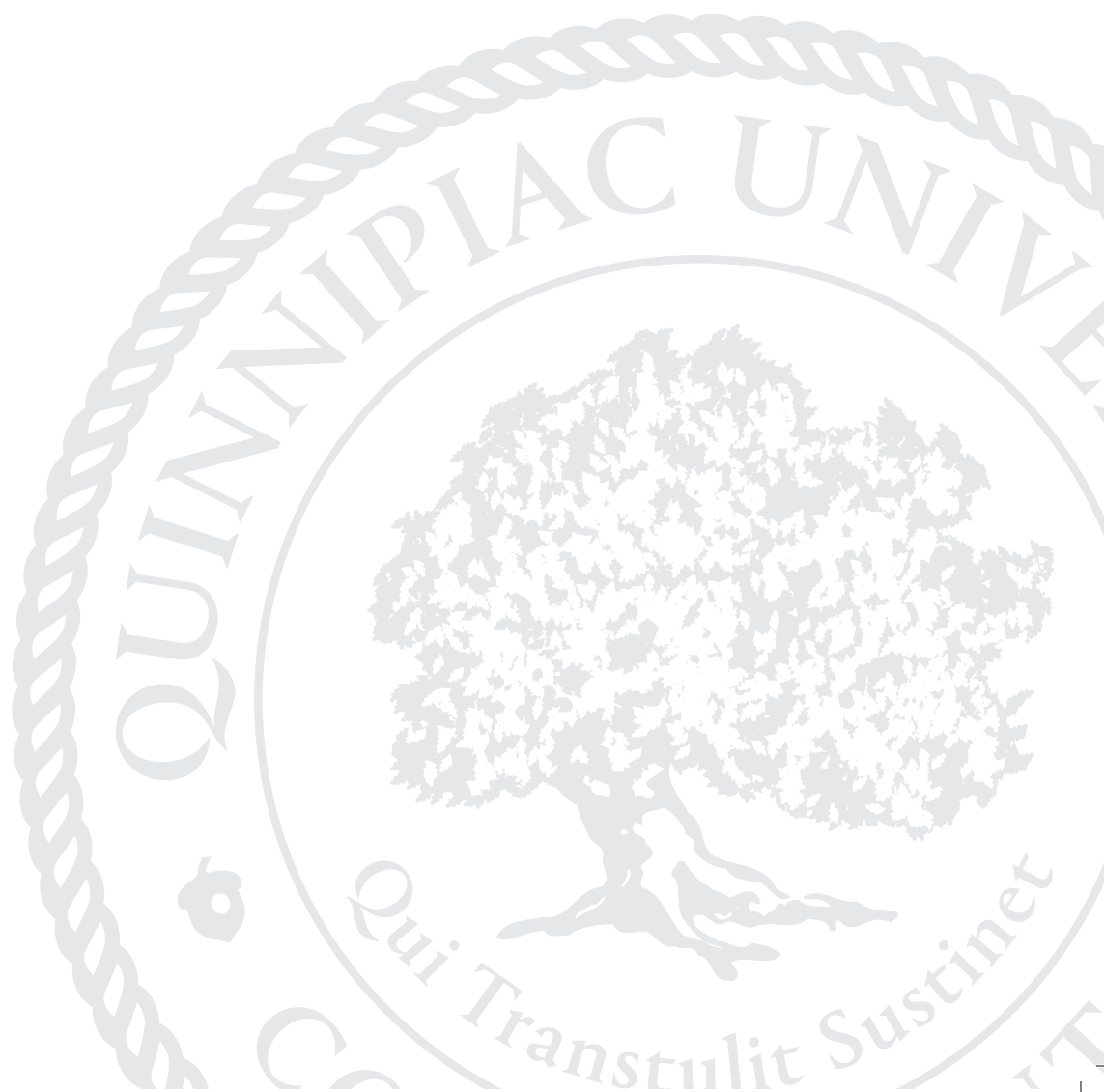
# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

EXERCISES

Friday the Eighth of May

2026

Ten o'clock





## GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HARDIN

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 as we celebrate this important milestone in your lives. We are delighted to welcome your families and friends to Quinnipiac today to share in your success and the promise that awaits you.

Your journey to this day is more than a ceremony. It is a testament to your hard work, your dedication and your commitment to the highest standards of health care. Your education has prepared you well for residencies that launch careers as impactful doctors and leaders of patient-centered health care teams.

You also learned the values of empathy, compassion and resilience from an extraordinary faculty and a dedicated staff. At the same time, you learned from each other, whether it was studying for exams or working on group assignments. I encourage you to nurture and maintain those friendships as you embark on your next chapter.

As graduates of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, we are so very proud of you. We know the future of medicine is in good hands with you, the doctors of tomorrow.

Warmly,

Marie C. Hardin, PhD



## A MESSAGE FROM DEAN COPLIT

Dear Graduates of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine  
Class of 2026,

Congratulations on this extraordinary milestone. It is a true honor to celebrate this moment with you — made even more meaningful as my first commencement as Dean and as someone who has had the privilege of being part of this community since its early days.

You began your medical education during a time of profound uncertainty, and throughout your journey, you demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to one another and to your patients. These qualities have not only shaped who you are as individuals, but have strengthened the fabric of our community.

You enter the profession of medicine at a time of both challenge and possibility. You are exceptionally well prepared to navigate the evolving landscape of science and healthcare and to lead with integrity, curiosity, and compassion. The way you care for patients, support your colleagues, and engage with your communities will define your impact as a physician and I know that you will do so with care and purpose.

As a member of the QU Netter community, you carry forward a legacy grounded in humanism, service, and a deep commitment to improving the health of others. Wherever your path leads, remain curious, embrace challenges, and continue to grow.

You will always be part of the QU Netter family. We are immensely proud of you and look forward to following your journey and celebrating the many ways that you will make a difference.

With warmest congratulations,

Lisa Coplit, MD

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

## **Trumpet Prelude and Processional**

Pomp and Circumstance | Sir Edward Elgar

## **Call to Commencement**

Debra J. Liebowitz, PhD

*Provost*

## **National Anthem**

Addison Prunier

## **Greetings**

Marie C. Hardin, PhD

*President*

## **Dean's Remarks**

Lisa D. Coplit, MD

*Dean of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine*

## **Introduction of Commencement Speaker**

R. Ellen Pearlman, MD

*Senior Associate Dean of Education*

## **Commencement Address**

Monique Nugent, MD, MPH

*Hospitalist and Author*

## **Presentation of Candidates for Medical Degrees and Conferral of Hoods**

Lisa D. Coplit

Renu Boatright, MD

*Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs*

## **Conferral of Degrees**

Marie C. Hardin

## **Student Remarks**

Paulina Naser-Saravia, MD Candidate '26

## **QU Netter School of Medicine Physician's Pledge**

R. Ellen Pearlman

## **Alumni Welcome**

Robert Passero '70

*Alumni Association Board*

## **Recessional**

Amor Vittorioso | G. Gastoldi

March | A. Valenti

Please remain at your seats until the Commencement procession files out.

A post-ceremony reception will take place at the Rocky Top Student Center.

# CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

## Doctor of Medicine

### **Arun Narikatte Abraham**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
UMass Chan Medical School, MA  
Psychiatry

### **Enock Godfred Arthur**

*High Distinction in Medical Education*  
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI  
Internal Medicine

### **John Russell Baekey**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
University of Vermont Medical Center, VT  
Neurology

### **Stephanie Anne Balint**

*Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy*  
NYP Hospital-Columbia & Cornell, NY  
Emergency Medicine

### **Noam Bar Brutzkus**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Kaiser Permanente-SF, CA  
Internal Medicine

### **Zachary Daniel Barber**

*Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy*  
Ohio State University Medical Center, OH  
Family Medicine/Rardin Family Practice Center

### **David Bartfeld**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Waterbury Hospital, CT  
General Surgery

### **Erika Mandi Belitzky**

*High Distinction in Medical Education*  
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI  
Internal Medicine

### **Kathryn Bindel**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Northwestern McGaw/Lurie Children's, IL  
Pediatrics

### **Cassidy Larkin Blakeley**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
U Colorado SOM-Denver, CO  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

### **Matthew Bossert**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Mass General Brigham, MA  
Pathology-AP only or AP/CP

### **Andrew Kalsem Brandser**

*High Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
University of Chicago Medical Center, IL  
Radiology-Diagnostic

### **Ryan Timothy Brennan**

*High Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, NH  
Anesthesiology

### **Nadezhda Bulekova**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Boston University Medical Center, MA  
Internal Medicine

### **Nicholas Anthony Carola III**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Quinnipiac University/Netter MD SOM, CT  
Family Medicine/Rural Hungerford Hospital

### **Suzanne Sarah Cayer**

*High Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy*  
University of Utah Health, UT  
Emergency Medicine

### **Scott Craig Childs**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA  
Anesthesiology

### **Lucas Cordova**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Duke University Medical Center, NC  
Family Medicine

### **Megan Eileen Cortés**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Duke University Medical Center, NC  
Pediatrics

### **Louisa Offei Darko**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
University of Rochester Medical Center, NY  
Internal Medicine

### **Jason Dinh**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
UMass Chan – Baystate, MA  
General Surgery

### **Andrea Echarri-Gonzalez**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
U Miami/Jackson Health System, FL  
Neurology

**Paul Farris**

*Distinction in Interprofessional Education and Practice*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
Physical Medicine & Rehab

**Julie Sklar Gaziano**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
MGB-Brigham & Women's Hospital, MA  
Internal Medicine

**Ludhe Naïka Gernier**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Sophia Claire Gibson**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Maine Medical Center, ME  
Internal Medicine

**Shannon Melody Haggodo**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
George Washington University, DC  
Internal Medicine

**Sana Haroon**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
ISMMS Mount Sinai Hospital, NY  
Internal Medicine/Community Primary Care

**Chelsea Celeste Hiciano**

*High Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Johns Hopkins Hospital, MD  
Emergency Medicine

**Estelle Avelina Khan**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
UMass Chan – Baystate, MA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Umme Hasna Hossain**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Zucker SOM-Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical  
Science Research*  
Indiana University SOM, IN  
Vascular Surgery

**Jacob Michael Johnson**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical  
Science Research*  
SUNY Upstate Med University, NY  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Andrew James Kehm**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Maine Medical Center, ME  
Urology

**Olivia Nicole Kelly**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
Pediatrics

**Candice Kent**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT  
Anesthesiology

**Emelei Rose Klein**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
University of Rochester Medical Center, NY  
Radiation Oncology

**Tatyana Koustov**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
UMass Chan Medical School, MA  
General Surgery

**Alexandra Krishnamurthi**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Valley Health System, NV  
Emergency Medicine

**Elina Kurkurina**

*High Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT  
Emergency Medicine/Research

**Sara Larosiliere**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Lehigh Valley Hospital, PA  
General Surgery

**Rose Lassalle-Klein**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, CA  
Pediatrics

**Sarah Jayne Levitt**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Rochester Regional Health, NY  
Interventional Radiology

**Meredith Haak LiCalzi**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Emory University SOM, GA  
Anesthesiology

**Jacob Francis Liff**

*Distinction in Medical Education*  
Kent Hospital, RI  
Emergency Medicine

**Derrick X. Liu**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical  
Science Research*  
UMass Chan Medical School, MA  
Ophthalmology

**Douglas Joseph MacLean**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI  
Anesthesiology

**Faria Mahjabin**

*Distinction in Medical Education*  
Zucker SOM-Northwell South Shore, NY  
General Surgery

**Mirwat Majumder**

*Distinction in Health Communications*  
NYU Grossman School of Medicine, NY  
Emergency Medicine

**Alex Nikhil Malhotra**

*Distinction in Medical Education*

**Noa Rachel Marx**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
NYP Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center, NY  
Pediatrics

**Demitrios Leonidas Master**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Swedish Medical Center, WA  
Family Med/SIHB

**George Matli**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA  
Anesthesiology

**Alexandra Lindsay McGuire**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
MGB-Massachusetts General Hospital, MA  
Pediatrics

**Megan Violet McNamara**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT  
Medicine-Primary

**Isabella Michael Miele**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Mass General Brigham, MA  
Emergency Medicine

**Sasha Sharif Mir**

*Distinction in Medical Education*  
OBH Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center, NY  
Psychiatry

**Grace Mockaitis**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Maine Medical Center, ME  
Neurology

**Vanad Mousa**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Childrens Hospital-Los Angeles, CA  
Pediatrics

**Terry Ann Muldoon**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
UMass Chan Medical School, MA  
Psychiatry-Neurology

**Kathleen L. Mulligan**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT  
Medicine-Pediatrics

**Robert John Nardella**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
NYU Grossman Long Island SOM, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Paulina Naser-Saravia**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical  
Science Research*  
Stamford Hospital/Columbia, CT  
General Surgery

**David Neider**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Portsmouth Regional Hospital, NH  
Family Medicine

**Nicole Masako Nishime**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Albany Medical Center, NY  
Plastic Surgery (Integrated)

**Agustín Ernesto Olivares Felipe**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
JHME-Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Michelle Asantewa Opore**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
UMass Chan Medical School, MA  
Family Medicine/Queen St. Family Health Center

**Vishal Mahendrakumar Patel**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Maimonides Medical Center, NY  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Samantha Mae Pecenka**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Kaiser Permanente-Napa/Solano, CA  
Family Medicine

**Willem Reece Philibert**

*Distinction in Healthcare Management  
and Organizational Leadership*  
Zucker SOM-Northwell Danbury Hospital, CT  
Internal Medicine

**Brynn Elizabeth Rankin**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, DC  
Interventional Radiology (Integrated)

**Henry Ren**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Boston University Medical Center, MA  
Emergency Medicine

**Alexandra Randolph Rich**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Brendan Leo Rooney**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Tufts Medical Center, MA  
Internal Medicine

**Julia Goldie Ross**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Case Western/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, OH  
Medicine-Preliminary

**Krista Ayran Runcie**

*High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Temple University Hospital, PA  
Anesthesiology

**Aaron Sammataro**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Rutgers-R. W. Johnson Medical School, NJ  
Psychiatry

**Mary Elizabeth Seibel**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
UC Davis Medical Center, CA  
Anesthesiology

**Maira Y. Silva**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
ISMMS Mount Sinai Morningside-West, NY  
Emergency Medicine

**Khalid Sirawan**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
NYMC-Metropolitan Hospital Center, NY  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Phillip H. Smit**

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
Anesthesiology

**Calvin Smith**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
University of Utah Health, UT  
Internal Medicine

**Sophia Kekai Smith**

*High Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
General Surgery-Preliminary

**Diana Samantha Sosa-Carola**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Middlesex Hospital-CT  
Family Medicine

**Christopher Laurence Taylor**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Stanford Health Care, CA  
Interventional Radiology (Integrated)

**Edison Tenecela**

*Distinction in Medical Education*  
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Isis Torres Nunez**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT  
Anesthesiology

**Julia Tupper**

*Distinction in Medical Education*  
UMass Chan Medical School, MA  
Emergency Medicine

**Rachel Kay Vallejo**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Indiana University SOM, IN  
Medicine-Pediatrics

**Victoria Ann Van Riper**

*Distinction in Medical Humanities*  
Rutgers-Jersey City Medical Center, NJ  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Shiv Ratan Verma**

*Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research*  
Loma Linda University, CA  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Eric Smith Vilsmark**

*High Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy*  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, NH  
Psychiatry

**Alexandra Mary Murphy Ward**

*High Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy*  
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI  
Emergency Medicine

**Lucas A. Webb**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Boston University Medical Center, MA  
Psychiatry

**Alexandra Rain Whicker**

*Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health*  
Atrium Health Cabarrus, NC  
Family Medicine/Cabarrus



# ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

## Excellent Performance in a Required Clinical Clerkship

**Critical Care**—Scott Craig Childs

**Emergency Medicine**—Chelsea Celeste Hiciano

**Family Medicine**—Zachary Daniel Barber

**Internal Medicine**—Agustín Ernesto Olivares Felipe

**OB/GYN**—Cassidy Larkin Blakeley

**Pediatrics**—Noa Rachel Marx

**Psychiatry**—Eric Smith Vilsmark

**Surgery**—Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

## Awards for Leadership and Service

**Gerald R. Berg, MD, Service Award**—Rose Lassalle-Klein

**Dean's Leadership Award**—Phillip H. Smit

**Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award**—

Victoria Ann Van Riper

## National Awards

**2026 Excellence in Public Health Award from U.S. Public Health Service**—Lucas Cordova

**2026 American College of Emergency Physicians National Outstanding Medical Student Award Winner**—  
Elina Kurkurina

## Awards for Outstanding Capstone Projects

**Barbara Pober, MD, MPH, Clinical Science Scholarship Award**—Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

**Scholarship in Community or Global Health Award**—  
Lucas A. Webb

**Scholarship in Health Equity Award**—Suzanne Sarah Cayer

**Scholarship in Humanism Award**—Victoria Ann Van Riper

**Scholarship in Medical Innovation and Education Award**—Derrick X. Liu

**Scholarship in Primary Care Award**—Kathryn Bindel

**Stephen Wikel, PhD, Scientific Scholarship Award**—  
Khalid Sirawan

## Awards for High Distinction in a Capstone Concentration

Enock Godfred Arthur

Erika Mandi Belitzky

Kathryn Bindel

Cassidy Larkin Blakeley

Andrew Kelsem Brandser

Ryan Timothy Brennan

Nadezhda Bulekova

Suzanne Sarah Cayer

Julie Sklar Gaziano

Sophia Claire Gibson

Sana Haroon

Chelsea Celeste Hiciano

Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

Jacob Michael Johnson

Emelei Rose Klein

Elina Kurkurina

Rose Lassalle-Klein

Sarah Jayne Levitt

Derrick X. Liu

Noa Rachel Marx

Terry Ann Muldoon

Kathleen L. Mulligan

Paulina Naser-Saravia

Nicole Masako Nishime

Brendan Leo Rooney

Julia Goldie Ross

Krista Ayran Runcie

Phillip H. Smit

Sophia Kekai Smith

Eric Smith Vilsmark

Alexandra Mary Murphy Ward

## Gold Humanism Honor Society

Enock Godfred Arthur

Lucas Cordova

Ludhe Naïka Gernier

Rose Lassalle-Klein

Grace Mockaitis

Paulina Naser-Saravia

Nicole Masako Nishime

Henry Ren

Brendan Leo Rooney

Sophia Kekai Smith

Eric Smith Vilsmark

Edison Tenecela

Isis Torres Nunez

Victoria Ann Van Riper

# FRANK H. NETTER MD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PHYSICIAN'S PLEDGE

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

- I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;
- THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;
- I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;
- I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;
- I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;
- I WILL ADVOCATE for social, economic, educational, and political changes that ameliorate suffering and contribute to the well-being of my patients and the communities I serve;
- I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;
- I WILL PRACTICE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;
- I WILL FOSTER the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession;
- I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;
- I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;
- I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;
- I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;
- I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

*Adapted from the WMA Declaration of Geneva Updated October 2017  
(The Physician's Pledge) and the AMA Declaration of Professional Responsibility*





Hamden and North Haven,  
Connecticut  
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